



The Grange

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 16

APRIL 1983

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN ...

Kae Fogden has been away in March for a well earned vacation. She will be back in "the chair" in April.

EVENTS

April is a month of "reminders". Most items have been in the Newsletter previously but they are all important to remember.

APRIL 9 to 16 is the 10th ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRANGE, and it will be a week of celebration starting with:

Saturday, April 9 and Sunday, April 10 the Press and Public are invited to visit The Grange. Lemonade and shortbread will be served to all visitors.

As well, between April 9 and 16 - all AGO VOLUNTEERS are invited to come and tour The Grange between 12 and 4 p.m.

On Monday, April 11 - The AGO STAFF have been invited to come to The Grange between 3 and 5 p.m. Refreshments are going to be served at that time, so anyone who would like to help serve them should please let Jane Dodge know.

THE GRANGE ANNUAL MEETING and PARTY will be held in The Music Room at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 11. Please do not forget! It will be a nice gathering.

THE SERIES OF SLIDE TALK LECTURES are still going strong. They will be given at both 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Thursdays. The Public is invited to attend these free nights, and participate in the discussion afterwards.

April 14 - Trips and travels in the Canadas prior to 1850. Presented by Andrée Accette.

May 12 - A "walk" through 19th century Toronto. Presented by Alice Gray.

The film on THE RESTORATION OF THE GRANGE will be shown each Sunday in The Music Room at 2:30 p.m. It lasts for 40 minutes.

Sheila Badgley has a good idea when she says that - Spring is a good time to visit an historic site you have not visited, or return to an old favourite. If you are interested put your name on the list outside the lunchroom, and get together with others visiting the same site.

Sheila would also like to invite all Volunteers to a light supper in The Music Room on Monday, May 30 at 6:30 p.m. There will be a discussion period afterwards to share your experiences. Dorothy Duncan will be our guest that evening. Please R.S.V.P. to your Day Captain by May 25.

MISCELLANEOUS

Toronto held a Press Launch for the 1984 Sesquicentennial celebrations. Jane McMyn and Flora Agnew were there. Included in the Press Release was information on The Grange. Also the AGO publicity for 1984 will focus on The Grange. It looks like we should have a busy year.

The March issue of Key to Toronto had an item in it on The Grange. At the top of the page was a great picture of Ruth Keene preparing fresh bread in the kitchen. Ruth is one of our best publicists. A fan letter came from Charles E. Collins of Michigan, U.S.A. to Ruth. It seems that each time he comes to Toronto he visits The Grange so that he can talk to Ruth, and as he writes she adds much to the pleasure of The Grange. Many children also take the time to write and thank her for all her encouragement. She has some delightful letters from the children if anyone is interested in reading them.

Not all the new "treasures" have been acquired by the AGO. The Grange has a new treasure too. She is Faye Thompson who quietly appears every Thursday in the "Sewing Room" and spends the afternoon busily sewing. Faye also takes work home to do at her leisure. She is responsible for many of the new petticoats and aprons, and a frock or two. Faye is truly a treasure.

There are two reminders from Jane Dodge. Firstly, no flash cameras may be used in The House without curatorial permission except for the basement. Secondly, please do not let visitors out through the front door.

When Sheila Badgley and Lynn Anson-Cartwright gave their lecture on furniture of the 19th century, the question arose as to what was a "klismos chair". The book of "World Furniture" says that it was the favourite type of chair in ancient Greece. It is considered to be a Greek invention, possibly a development of the Egyptian chairs or Greek thrones with animal legs. Light and comfortable, it was easily carried about, and by the 5th century when its curves achieve ideal proportions, it had become a most graceful and delightful piece of furniture, which is still copied to this day.

Do most volunteers know that Duncan Phyfe did most of his work in the United States? He was an immigrant from Scotland via Albany, New York, who maintained a shop in New York City from 1795 to 1847 and during this long period interpreted with great distinction and an unusual measure of originality a series of European styles.

Someone asked what a "muffineer" is? It is a castor (with a perforated cover or cap which is sometimes of silver), for sprinkling sugar or muffins, etc.

Does anyone know how much it cost to build The Grange? We do know that D'Arcy Boulton Jr. paid £350 for his 100 acre park lot, but so far no one knows how much The House cost.

BOOK REVIEW

The Embroidered tent: five gentlewomen in Early Canada. Marian Fowler, House of Anansi Press Limited, Toronto. 1982. 239 pages.

Five fresh and entertaining critical biographies of leading 19th century women who made Canada their own. Elizabeth Simcoe, Catharine Parr Traill, Susanna Moodie, Anna Jameson, Lady Dufferin.
